

Mr. Raymond P. Whearty
Chairman, Interdepartmental Committee
on Internal Security
2107 - Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Whearty:

Your letter of 8 September 1950 concerning a Presidential Directive on departure of persons from the United States has been carefully reviewed by this office. We are fully in sympathy with the need for further information concerning both citizens and aliens who wish to leave this country and for adequate records on which to base action on passport applications. This Agency wishes to assist such a program both in the interest of internal security and because of related problems in the duties for which we are responsible.

Two major problems are seen in the Proposal as set forth in your letter forwarding the Draft Directive -- one practical, one involving security. The practical aspect arises from the fact that we necessarily have in various files vast numbers of personal records of one sort or another either strictly biographic, or related to personnel and administration, or those involved in intelligence operations or reports. A great majority of these people would possess information of such a nature that the disclosure of it either willingly or unwillingly to unauthorized persons abroad would endanger the security of the United States. Culling out those who come within this category would be a reference task of major proportions, which at this moment we are not in a position to undertake.

The security problem involves many of the same names as those noted above and under a broad construction the Draft Directive would require CIA to report all of its employees and the names of all others used by it in various capacities as persons possessing knowledge the unauthorized disclosure of which might seriously endanger the security of the nation. Such a list, for obvious reasons of security, is not compiled in any one place even within the Agency.

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We believe the solution to the difficulty lies in a clearer definition of those persons whose names CIA should and can report under your program. These would be persons who, CIA believes, have information the unauthorized disclosure of which might seriously endanger the security of the United States, and who because of their background or the circumstances of the proposed travel may, in the opinion of CIA, make such unauthorized disclosures. In other words CIA would not report a person merely because of the possession of information, but would report those cases in which CIA believes there is a likelihood of unauthorized disclosure. This program, while somewhat more limited in scope than that apparently contemplated by ICIS, would, we believe, be more positive and effective and would be within the capabilities of CIA without impairing the security of intelligence operations.

If you agree with our suggestions, we would be glad to help redraft the Directive to reflect our position, but perhaps you would prefer to stand by the draft in so far as the other agencies are concerned and come to a separate understanding with this Agency. This would be quite agreeable to us.

In carrying out its functions, particularly in the field of counter-espionage, CIA would find the information desired by your program on departures from the United States very valuable. Furthermore, certain individuals, who in the opinion of other departments have such knowledge that their departure should be controlled, may be considered by this Agency to be such valuable sources of information that their potential for our purposes should outweigh the objections of an other agency, or at least should be considered in connection with the passport application. Furthermore, if we were in possession of the names which would be furnished by other agencies under the proposed regulations, we might be able to furnish positive information for guidance in individual cases arose. We therefore strongly recommend that CIA be designated as recipient of such names, both citizen and alien, in connection with our responsibilities in the field of foreign intelligence.

Sincerely yours,

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WILLIAM H. JACKSON
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

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(Legal: 12 Oct 50)

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